

Meeting Notes, 3/1/2001

SSGIC

Southern Sierra Geographic Information Cooperative

Meeting Location: CDF Regional Office, 1234 Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA

Participants:

Aaron Gelobter
Dorothy Albright
Tony Caprio
Pat Lineback

Objectives:

- Update current SSGIC objectives and action plan

Results:

It was decided we would try to extend the project end date from 11/30/2001 to 12/15/2002. Pat will take the lead and initiate a letter to the JFSP board to make the request. Bob Rogers, JFSP administrator indicated the board has never turned down an extension request although we don't know if anybody has ever asked for a one-year extension.

We have currently programmed Karen Holmstrom's position to end 7/31/2002. We decided to extend the position to the end of the project or 12/15/2002. Aaron will inform Karen Holmstrom of this decision. He will also try to determine what the fiscal cost for Karen's position will be for the period 1/1/2002 – 12/15/2002 and get back to Pat with the \$\$\$. Aaron thought that Karen Holmstrom is still not networked into the USFS network. This means she doesn't have email and Internet access using the SSGIC computer. Aaron will meet with Karen Holmstrom, Lew Jump, and the USFS information management staff to determine the best option for getting her networked. Possible options include paying OT to bring a systems administrator to Porterville for a weekend or buying her a USFS laptop (cost \$3200) that can plug into the USFS network. Karen will need Internet access to help manage data and web mapping services with the SSGIC server in Denver.

The group agreed to allow Pat to fund a seasonal for six months to be stationed at SEKI. The position will be used to support data development initiatives to support the SSGIC and backfill for Pat on projects he is unable to complete because of the extra SSGIC workload. The position will be filled at the GS5, 7, or 9 level depending on the candidate qualifications. Two potential projects that were identified include the development of special management zones for the Southern Sierra and updating fire history for some of the agencies that are further behind on this work. SSGIC funds will not be used to purchase any hardware to support this position. Funding for this position will partially come from programmed, but unspent "seamless data" funds.

The following changes were made to the SSGIC action plan and their respective goals. The action plan must be updated to reflect these changes. Only major changes are described below.

Important: Jeff and Dorothy need to provide to Pat any changes to their project statements in the Action Plan ASAP. Pat already has Aaron's changes. Pat will update the budget once he gets updated figures to see where we stand with our budget. Pat will send the updated action plan to the JFSP board as an attachment when we ask for an extension.

The most important seamless data is developed and complies with National Spatial Data Infrastructure requirements. (Pat Lineback – Lead)

The goal has been changed to ***The most important seamless data is developed.*** It was decided that we would not use SSGIC project funds to develop and manage an FGDC clearinghouse node. The USGS currently has matching funds up to \$20,000 to assist in the development of data and map clearinghouses. In 2001, 10 awards will be given to support collaborative ventures focusing on developing web-mapping clearinghouses. The deadline for submissions is 3/15/2001. Pat will look into whether it is feasible to turn in an application to seek funding to hire a contractor to help with this. It would be good to do, but ultimately boils down to whether we have enough time.

\$13,000 was programmed to develop “special management zones”. This funding will be used to partially fund the SSGIC GIS seasonal at SEKI.

Data is readily accessible and available. (Pat Lineback – Lead)

A draft agreement was written by Pat and sent to the USGS for review. Basically, we decided it would be easier to do a formal agreement to manage the SSGIC server in Denver between only the NPS and USGS. Based on our experiences thus far trying to get an interagency general agreement, it made no sense try and expand it beyond the two agencies. The agreement asks the USGS to take on the management of the server for three years. We don’t really have to give a whole lot of anything in return, except we’ll have to do the remote administration of ftp services and mapping. If you want to see the agreement rough draft, give Pat a holler and he’ll send you a copy.

Some of our costs have been lower than anticipated. We had programmed \$15,000 to develop Internet Browsing Capabilities (2.7.1), but have thus far only spent \$3,000 to purchase ArcIMS (we purchased it for \$6,000 less than the contract price because of grant award from ESRI). The USGS is also providing support and development and we haven’t had to pay for their assistance thus far. We decided that 2.6.1 “Develop Web site/FTP Clearinghouse” is Phase I and should focus on developing a Web/Mapping Site that is up by summer. We added 2.8.1 which is Phase II and focuses on improving and automating the management of data on the Web Site – cost estimated at \$10,000.

Develop Analysis Methods and Procedures. (Jeff Manley – Lead)

Although this part of the project is behind schedule, it is proceeding as planned. Jeff Manley needs to update the Action Plan.

Written protocols and guidelines are drafted to facilitate project replication. (Jeff Manley – Lead)

We were concerned that the Action Plan described the “Analysis Team” having responsibility for writing up and documenting the analysis models and protocols. Jeff – is this still the plan? Is this going to be a problem?

Interagency consensus is reached regarding analysis methods and procedures. (Jeff Manley – Lead)

Goal remains the same. Jeff Manley needs to any fields that need updating.

Use a fuels analysis to identify treatment areas (risk, hazard, and values) and to develop for select areas(s) (Aaron Gelobter – Lead)

Aaron is the lead on the project. The dates for implementing the action plan had to be moved back because of dependencies on getting analysis results. Because of fire season, Aaron targeted 4.1.1 “Establish Project Area Boundaries” as starting around 11/2001. Jeff, this gives you more breathing room for doing the analysis, but first round of analysis has to be complete by then. The actual commitment to the JFSP ends with 4.3.1 “Fuel Treatment Activities (proposals). We have added 4.4.1 – 4.6.1, but these activities are beyond the scope of this project. This includes compliance and implementation of burns that need to logically follow identification of fuels treatment activities.

Standard business processes that optimize long-term interagency information collaboration are implemented and effectively communicated. (Dorothy Albright – Lead)

Item 1.2.5 moved to Item 1.2.6. The new 1.2.5 “Review/Audit Project Management and Business Processes” is tentatively funded not-to-exceed \$10,000 and has a start date of January 2002. This activity is focused on getting outside project management review to identify successes, failures, recommendations, and provide a final written report. Item 1.2.4 “Develop document addressing business processes for interagency cooperation” has changed start date to 11/2001.

An interagency collaboration system based on web technologies is developed. (Dorothy Albright – Lead)

We cancelled this goal. Eliminating this from our action plan saved a total of \$39,000. Our task order with JFSP didn’t identify this as specific deliverable and we felt it was a project beyond what anyone could currently manage. It is an important task, but we don’t have the time to do a good job on this goal. ArcIMS does provide some mapping collaboration potential and our web page will provide some collaborative potential, but we will not be looking much beyond that for this project.

Project meets the requirements of the Joint Fire Sciences Program. (Dorothy Albright – Lead)

Some dates were moved back because of delays but action plan remains substantively the same. The final SSGIC workshop will be presented at the National Fire Ecology Conference that will be in Orlando, FL in 11/2002 (replaces the CAFÉ conference scheduled for 11/2001 in San Diego). We have earmarked \$10,000 of SSGIC project funds for this workshop.

Other

We discussed some options for submitting another JFSP request through the current funding call – Deadline for submissions is 4/23/2001. However, we gave up. This needs some more thought. Some ideas that were thrown out as possible requests that could tier off this project include:

- Development of an FGCD Clearinghouse Site – tiering off what we have started
- Enhance/Refine fuels and canopy layers for six watersheds.
- Investigate Remote/Wireless data and Internet access
- Interagency NEPA/CEQA and how it should be done using SSGIC as a pilot test.
- Measuring and modeling Landscape change using plot data

- Development of interagency Standards and Guidelines for developing and managing fire data.

Dorothy is going to Salt Lake City the week of 3/5/2001 to discuss the USFS LandFire Program. It is a multi-year funded project to acquire base data using image data from the EROS data center. Dorothy suggested that SSGIC would be a very good pilot test area and possible candidate for prototype funding. Aaron and Pat suggested \$200,000/year over five years would be sufficient to enhance/improve our fuels and canopy data. Go Dorothy!